

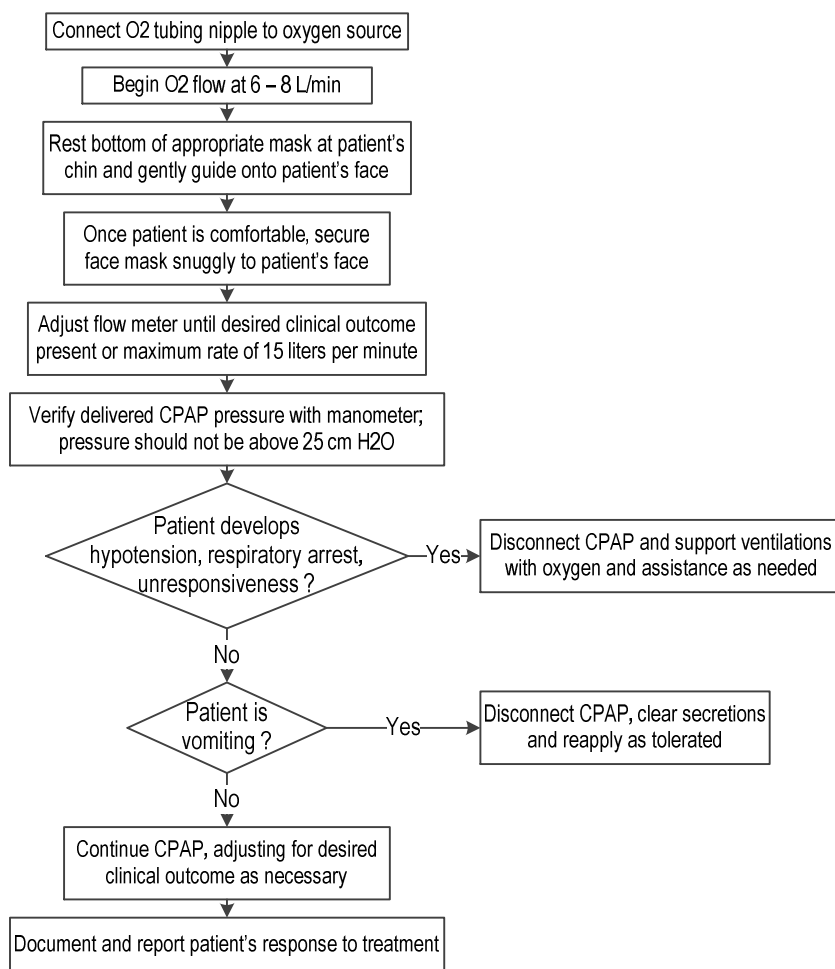
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**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS
PRACTICAL SKILL
CONTINUOUS POSITIVE
AIRWAY PRESSURE (CPAP)**

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Purpose: To provide continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) ventilation support adjunct in patients with moderate to severe respiratory distress		Indications: Moderate to severe respiratory distress in spontaneously breathing patients	
Advantages: Adjunct to respiratory distress therapy to be used in conjunction with oxygen and other respiratory treatment medications and therapies; if used early, may reduce the need for intubation and improve clinical comfort and outcome; light weight and oxygen sufficient; easily transferrable between portal, ambulance wall and ER wall oxygen sources	Disadvantages: Can be difficult to initiate and maintain seal; will require therapeutic relationship between provider and patient to establish trust with placing mask over face; competes with medication administration; oxygen use	Complications: Gastric insufflation; aspiration risk'	Contraindications: Respiratory arrest; unconscious; active vomiting; systolic blood pressure less than 100; pneumothorax; facial anomalies; facial trauma



Flow vs. Pressure	
Flow (LPM)	CPAP (approx. cm H2O)
6	2.0 – 3.0
10	6.0 – 7.0
12	8.0 – 9.0
15	11.0 – 12.0
8-9	5.0
10-12	7.5
13-14	10.0
Flush	13.0 (max)

Oxygen Tank Time Chart			
Flow/L/Min	D Cylinder	E Cylinder	M Cylinder
5	70	123	703
6	58	102	598
8	44	77	498
10	35	61	374
12	29	51	299
15	23	41	199